

## **John Prichet Journals**

L 130  
1849-1851  
1 ms. box

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division  
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Elizabeth M. Wilkinson, September 2005  
Finding aid updated: Laura Eliason, 11/14/2015

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### **Biographical Note:**

John Prichet was born in New Jersey on Nov. 25, 1803 to Joab and Mary (Buzby) Prichet. In 1805 his parents moved to Columbiana County, Ohio. He began studying medicine with Dr. Gustavus Allen of Fairfield, Ohio. After being granted a license by the Medical Board, he began his practice in 1825 and moved to Petersburg. He moved to Wayne County, Indiana in 1826, but stayed only one year before moving back to Ohio. However, he returned to Centreville, Wayne County in 1828, and soon after he formed a partnership with Dr. William Pugh. Dr. Prichet became a Mason in 1825 and an Odd Fellow in 1849. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Prichet married Emily Talbott, a native of Virginia, on March 4, 1830. Together they had three children: Mary, Gustavus, and James. In 1843 he received a medical diploma from the Ohio College of Medicine in Cincinnati. Dr. Prichet went to California during the gold rush in 1849, but not having the success he hoped, returned to Centreville in 1851 where he remained. He later became co-owner of a drug store with Dr. Reed.

He was commissioned Surgeon during the Civil War for the 57th Indiana Volunteers on Nov. 18, 1861 and remained on duty with the regiments until June 16, 1862, when he resigned because of physical disability. Dr. Prichet passed away on June 6, 1884 in Centreville.

#### *Source:*

History of Wayne County, Indiana. Vol. I. Chicago: Inter-State Pub. Co., 1884. 597.

History of Wayne County, Indiana. Vol. II. Chicago: Inter-State Pub. Co., 1884. 356.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of three hand written journals (1849-1851) of Dr. John Prichet describing his journey from Indiana to California during the Gold Rush. His journals cover his trip from Centreville, Indiana to California by steamboat on the Ohio and Missouri rivers, and overland from Independence, Missouri to California using the Truckee river route; his life in the mining camps near Yuba City and Sacramento,

California; and his return trip by ship from San Francisco through Panama, to New Orleans. The first journal includes a carte-de-visite of Dr. Prichet.

This collection also includes a typed transcript of the diaries.

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### Folder Listing:

#### Folder

1. Journal transcript (Use copy), March 26-Aug. 9, 1849
  2. Journal transcript (Use copy), Aug. 10, 1849-Apr. 17, 1850
  3. Journal transcript (Use copy), Apr. 18, 1850-Feb. 18, 1851
  4. Journal transcript (Archival copy), March 26-Aug. 9, 1849
  5. Journal transcript (Archival copy), Aug. 10, 1849-Apr. 17, 1850
  6. Journal transcript (Archival copy), Apr. 18, 1850-Feb. 18, 1851
  7. Journal 1: March 26, 1849-July 22, 1849  
Journal 2: July 23, 1849-Apr. 17, 1850  
Journal 3: Apr. 18, 1850-Feb. 18, 1851
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### Collection Information:

<i>Size of Collection:</i>	1 ms box (3 journals, 6 folders of transcripts)
<i>Collection Dates:</i>	26 Mar. 1849 to 18 Feb. 1851
<i>Provenance:</i>	Mary E. Ormsbee, 19 Mar. 1921
<i>Restrictions:</i>	Use transcript copies instead of original journals. Photocopying of the original journals is prohibited.
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<i>Related Holdings:</i>	
<i>Notes:</i>	

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